ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, ARAMINGO

PARISH PROFILE AND SURVEY REPORT

MAY -- 1976

St. Paul's Church, Aramingo, is located at 3825 Kensington Avenue. This street address is just a few feet north of the intersection of Kensington and Castor Avenues, and a short distance south of the Erie-Torresdale station on the Market-Frankford subway/elevated transit line. The inclusion of the word Aramingo in the official name of St. Paul's could be misleading if an attempt is made to relate Aramingo to a current neighborhood or section of Philadelphia. "Aramingo" is the English distortion of the Lenni Lenape Indian name TUNANARAMINK, meaning "a place where wolves walk". A creek in this area also bore the name. The location of St. Paul's, Aramingo, in a city of neighborhoods, can best be described as being just south of Frankford, a few blocks north of the Harrowgate section, east of the Juniata area and a mile or so west of the Port Richmond neighborhood.

St. Paul's is 106 years old, having been founded at our present location in the year 1870. Our facility consists of three buildings, all inter-connected. The Rectory is on the north side of the Church proper, with a Parish Hall on the south side. We have a dining room and kitchen on the lower level of our Parish Building, and several meeting rooms in the Church basement.

St. Paul's is a member of the Pennypack Deanery. Other than belonging to the Deanery, St. Paul's has not entered into relationship or affiliation with any neighboring parishes or with community organizations.

The parish profile set forth in this report was developed from a questionnaire provided to each member on our active communicant listing. One hundred eighty-four (184) questionnaires were sent out, and one hundred seventeen (117), 64% were returned by the deadline date of Sunday, March 21st, 1976. The statistics, opinions and preferences of our parishoners are detailed in a completed copy of our Self Study Questionnaire which is attached to and a part of this Parish Profile Survey Report. Due to the fact that some questions were unanswered, there is a difference in some of the totals.

SUMMARY

The members of St. Paul's, Aramingo, are interested and concerned about the future of their Parish. This concern is reflected in the 64% return of the questionnaire. Two of every three members took the time and made the effort to complete and return their questionnaire. As in most churches, two thirds of our membership are female. The collation of responses shows that 51% of our congregation are over 55 years of age, with 30% being over 65 years of age. The responses reflect the fact that only 7% of our members are in the 13 to 18 age bracket and 7% in the 19 to 25 age bracket.

There are at least 31 children of church school age. This count is encouraging as it could be the nucleus on which our Church School could grow and prosper.

The majority, (51%) of our membership, has been attending St. Paul's for over 20 years. Another 24% have been coming to St. Paul's for 10 to 20 years. There must be somthing good and worthwhile about St. Paul's, Aramingo, to maintain this record of attandance over such a long period of time. However, not one member has been attending for one year or less, and 11 members said they were attending St. Paul's for 1 to 5 years, indicating that relatively few new families are coming into the Parish.

Slightly over one half (51%) of our members stated that they were housewives or in the retired category. Blue collar and while collar workers account for 26% of our members. We have five educators and six members that are in the professional class.

Fifty-three percent (53%) of our members live within walking distance of the church (0-8 blocks). However, 28% must come 2 to 6 miles, 8% live as far as 6 miles from the church. Our parishoners are faithful in the matter of attendance as 55% stated they attend services at least once a week, and another 25% attend 2 to 3 times a month.

In spite of the age level of our membership, 54%, or 60 members, stated that they participate in parish activities. This participation indicates that our members are interested, supportive, and are aware that a viable church needs more than just a Sunday Worship Service.

Our congregation (73%) feels that all parts of the Worship Service are of equal importance. In addition, they indicated that they were comfortable with the present scheduling of Communion.

The congregation is considered to be warm and friendly, and the number of present activities is just about right. Of those that suggested additional activities, the vast majority stated we should have more activities to attract the young people. The continuation of and the emphasis on our Church School was overwhelmingly supported by 95%.

The respondents to this questionnaire, being the interested members of the Parish, indicated that we are a conservative Parish and prefer the traditional forms of worship using the Book of Common Prayer. The level of service we now have is desired by 89% of our members. Our members have no great desire for our Parish to become more deeply involved in the secular changes of today's society. The members would want our Rector to support only those Diocesan social and political programs and actions for which he has the approval of the Parish. The Rector's participation in trying to solve some of the current social and political problems should be confined to those which directly involve the Parish and/or those for which he has the backing of the Parish.

The vast majority of our parishoners indicated that the Priestly functions, such as conducting the Worship Service, performing the Sacramental Orders and preaching from the pulpit, to be very important elements of the Rector's position. Teaching and training of the Confirmation Class, Church School Teachers, Lay Readers, and Acolytes should be of prime concern to the Rector. The Rector should be most willing to call on the sick and shut-ins, make parish calls and canvas for new or potential members. The parishoners indicated that of the varied church activities and groups, it was most important that our Rector be directly involved with the youth of the Church. This feeling is reflected in the vote count and high priority that was given to the Youth Groups, Church School and Acolyte Programs from a listing of ten church programs. Participation by our Rector in service clubs, urban ministry and national affairs is considered to be somewhat less than important. However, involvement in local community projects, Deanery and Diocesan functions was considered to be a relatively important element of the Rector's position. The Rector should provide leadership and concern himself with the various administrative tasks in connection with the day by day operation of the church. Foremost would be presiding at Vestry and Parish Meetings, maintaining church records, financial affairs, management of the Parish Office and maintaining some semblance of scheduled office hours. The Rector should be a warm, sympathetic person, to the degree that the parishoners would feel close to their Rector so that they could come to him with problems of a personal nature.

In regard to major issues or controversies in our society, the membership would prefer a Rector that would avoid these issues in his Sunday Sermons, confining his talk to religious matters. If the Rector feels that he must speak on an issue, they would like him to discuss both sides of an issue and let the membership decide their own position.

Of the many skills and attributes that a Rector could have, the membership considered the most important ones to be: ability to relate to youth, personal warmth, ability to work with all people, a good preacher, able to communicate with the membership and the various church groups.

The age and marital status of our new Rector is immaterial to the majority of the parishoners. However, the preference vote did favor a man that was somewhere in the neighborhood of 35 to 45 years of age, married, with young children. They would prefer that he live in St. Paul's Rectory, and that his wife and family take an interest and be active in the Church and its activities.

Although the vast majority of our parishoners indicated a preference for the continued use of the Book of Common Prayer that we grew up with and know, it should be noted that the congregation of St. Paul's has had very little exposure to the trial liturgy or proposed changes to the Book of Common Prayer.

While the majority of our membership is over 55 years of age, the replies and suggestions throughout the questionnaire reflected the need for a Rector that is able to relate to our young people and interested in attracting young families into the Parish. Conversely, he should be sympathetic to the needs and desires of the many long time members that have faithfully supported St. Paul's, Aramingo, for so many years.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Siegrist

Charles Siegrist
Chairman,
Search & Selection Committee

TABULATION OF RESULTS, - SELF STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

General Information About You

Total number of responses — Please check appropriate space(s).

117 1.
- 39 a) Male - 33%
- 78 b) Female - 67%

117 2. Age:
- 6 a) 16-18 - 5%
- 8 b) 19-25 - 7%
- 18 c) 26-40 - 15%
- 23 d) 41-55 - 20%
- 25 e) 55-65 - 21%
- 35 f) 65+ - 30%
- 2 **under 16** 2%

108 3. What is your occupation?
- 36 a) housewife - 33%
- 19 b) retired - 18%
- 15 c) blue collar worker - 14%
- 13 d) white collar worker - 12%
- 5 e) educator - 5%
- 6 f) professional (physician, lawyer, engineer, etc.) - 6%
- 7 g) other - 6%
- 6 **student** - 6% **(plus 1 service man)**

113 4. How close do you live to St. Paul's? (distance from your home to church)
- 60 a) 0-8 blocks - 53%
- 12 b) 1-2 miles - 11%
- 24 c) 2-4 miles - 21%
- 8 d) 4-6 miles - 7%
- 9 e) over 6 miles - 8%

112 5. Length attending St. Paul's
- 0 a) 1 year or less - 0%
- 11 b) 1-5 years - 10%
- 17 c) 5-10 years - 15%
- 27 d) 10-20 years - 24%
- 57 e) over 20 years - 51%

109 6. How often do you attend services at St. Paul's Church?
- 60 a) once a week - 55%
- 27 b) 2-3 times per month - 25%
- 8 c) Once a month - 7%
- 14 d) a few times a year - 13%

106 7. Do you have children under 12 years of age?
- 13 a) Yes How many? 19
- 93 b) No.

Note: In questions 7 and 8 regarding "how many" children, to avoid duplication, one parent should answer.

Total number of responses

General Information About You - Cont'd.

104 8. Do you have children between 13 and 18 years of age?

8 a) Yes How Many? 12

96 b) No

111 9. Do you participate in St. Paul's activities other than attending Sunday services?

60 a) Yes - 54%

51 b) No - 46%

10. If "yes", what activities?

14 a) Altar Guild

6 b) Church School Teacher

13 c) Men's Club

4 d) Lay Reader

14 e) Couples Club

5 f) Acolytes

8 g) Choir (Senior)

0 h) Choir (Junior) Not active.

12 i) Usher

17 j) Vestry

18 k) Women's Guild

17 l) Other:

Fall Bazaar - 6

Weekly Wed. Luncheons - 9

Good Shepherd Players - 1

Envelope Secretary - 1

Parish Needs and Goals, Attitudes and Opinions

Total number of responses

By writing appropriate number, rate your opinion of the following in terms of #1 (the highest) through #5 (lowest). However, if all parts of the Service are of equal importance to you, check Item f.

112

Importance rating one through five

1. What is the most important part of the worship service for you?

3 a) Sermon
2 b) Liturgy (the structure, form & language of the Prayer Book Services)
1 c) Receiving Holy Communion
4 d) Prayers
5 e) Hymns and Music

30 members (27%) rated the parts of the Service.

82 f) All of the above are equally important to me. 73% of total count

Please check one item only except where instructed otherwise.

2. How oftem do you prefer Communion at the Sunday Service you normally attend?

		8:00 a.m. Service	9:15 Service	11:00 Service
15 - 8:00 a.m.	a) Once a month	0	62% - 28	37% - 12
45 - 9:15 a.m.	b) Twice a month	13% - 2	27% - 12	60% - 19
32 -11:00 a.m.	c) Every Sunday	87% - 13	11% - 5	3% - 1
	d) Not at all	0	0	0

108

3. Do you desire weekday services?

6 a) On a regular weekly schedule plus holy days - 5%
0 b) On a regular weekly schedule - 0%
44 c) On holy days - 41%
58 d) Doesn't matter to me - 54%

109

4. Our congregation is

2 a) Cold and impersonal - 2%
61 b) Warm and friendly - 56%
46 c) Somewhere in between - 42%

102

5. There are a number of functions necessary to insure a viable (ongoing) church.

I feel that:

0 a) There are too many activities going on.
71 b) The number of activities is about right. - 70%
31 c) There isn't enough going on and we should be more active. - 30%

State your suggestions:

Activities for young people 22 - 81%)
Activities for Senior Citizens 1 - 4%) (of the total number of
Additional social events 4 - 15%) suggestions)

Total 27

Total number of responses

104 6. How do you feel about our Church School Program relative to the vitality and future of St. Paul's?

75 a) Very important - 72%
24 b) Important - 23%
3 c) Somewhat important - 3%
2 d) Not very important - 2%

104 7. Should St. Paul's continue a weekly Adult Church School Class?

45 a) I definitely think we should - 43%
42 b) It doesn't make much difference to me - 40%
5 c) I don't see any need for it at all - 5%
12 d) I would rather see greater emphasis placed on a Lenten Adult Education Program, or other special programs of this type. - 11%

92 8. What should be the emphasis of an Adult Church School Program?

25 a) Bible study - 27%
4 b) Current social problems - 4%
61 c) Some of each - 61%
2 d) Other: _____ - 2%

107 9. What is your feeling toward your Diocese?

9 a) The Diocese is simply an administrative unit dealing exclusively with clergy. - 8%
3 b) The Diocese is relatively unimportant in the work of the Episcopal Church. - 3%
14 c) The Diocese is fairly important in the work of the Episcopal Church. - 13%
8 e) There are only certain things that the Diocese can do and for the most part, they do not affect our parish. - 7%
40 e) The Diocese is very important if the church is to carry out an effective ministry. - 37%
33 f) I am not aware of the activities of the Diocese. - 31%

114 10. I think the type of service we now have is:

0 a) Too "high" - 0%
10 b) Too "low" - 9%
102 c) About right - 89%
2 d) Doesn't matter to me - 2%

106 11. What type of service to you prefer?

84 a) Prayer Book as now being used - 79%
11 b) A more varied service within framework of Prayer Book - 10%
10 c) The trial liturgy, part of the time - 10%
1 d) The trial liturgy, all the time - 1%

109 12. How involved should our parish be in the secular changes of today's society?

22 a) We should be more active than we are - 20%
45 b) Our present participation is about right - 41%
17 c) We shouldn't get involved - 15%
25 d) I don't know what we are doing now. - 23%

Total number of responses

118 13. How much do you think our Rector should participate in trying to solve some of the current social and political problems?

25 a) He should participate actively on any issue in which he believes. - 21%

42 b) He should confine his participation to those activities which directly involve the parish - 36%

45 c) He should actively participate only if he has the backing of the parish - 38%

6 d) Doesn't matter to me - 5%

107 14. To what extent should the Rector support Diocesan social and political programs or actions?

3 a) He should support all of them - 3%

29 b) He should support only those in which he believes - 27%

68 c) He should support only those which have the approval of the parish. - 64%

7 d) Doesn't matter to me. - 6%

106 15. Are you acquainted with the work of the Vestry?

53 a) Yes, definitely - 53%

35 b) Somewhat, but I would like to know more - 33%

9 c) No, and I would like to become acquainted with it - 8%

9 d) No, and I have no desire to become acquainted with it - 8%

251 16. I feel free to disucss parish concerns with: (Check as many as appicable)

77 a) Rector - 30%

55 b) Wardens - 21%

60 c) Vestry - 24%

54 d) Other parish members - 22%

5 e) None of the above - 2%

17. What do you think is the purpose of our Parish?

To live and teach God's way
To serve Christ
Provide religious training for our children
To meet together to worship & serve Christ

18. List the strong points of our parish as you see them.

Hard working, loyal, devoted members
Our buildings are well mainained & we are free of debt
We have many social events plus Wednesday Luncheons
Variety of worship services

19. List the weak points of our parish as you see them.

Our membership is dwindling
Lack of communication about upcoming events
Not enough activities to attract the young people
A more active & larger Church School
We need more activities for members in the 20 to 30 year age bracket

20. Other comments concerning goals, attitudes and opinions.

We should have a larger choir.
Parishoners should make an extra effort to make new members and visitors feel at home.
New members should be introduced to everyone and offered the opportunity to become involved in all activities, no matter how small the part.
It would be encouraging to our new rector if more people would attend the weekday services.
All people cannot read music. All church members should be invited to attend choir practice to learn music and the hymns. This type of a program may eventually lead to a larger choir.
Opinions should be left private and only told to the proper authority.
We need a rector who will search out the Episcopalians in our neighborhood and persuade them to come to St. Paul's.
Our rector should strive to interest young people to come to church and convience them how important a role the church can play in their lives.
Although we need to attract the young people, the church should not cater to every whim of youth.
We should attempt to set-up workshop mini-course for adults; "How to" - in sewing, weaving, ceramics, plant care, etc.
Put aside our personal attitudes and opinions and give support, recognition and respect to our new rector.
We must all strive in our own little way to make St. Paul's even better than it is.

Elements of the Rector's Job

Please circle ONE number on each line:	Importance in the Rector's Job: Very Important	Important	Less Important	Someone Else should do	Total number of responses.
1. Priestly Functions:					
a) Conducting worship services	88%	12%	0%	-	106
b) Performing sacramental orders (Communion, Baptism, Marriage, Funerals)	76%	21%	3%	-	107
c) Preaching	63%	29%	7%	-	109
2. Teaching and Training of the following:					
a) Confirmation Class	79%	16%	4%	2%	109
b) Adult Classes	18%	46%	32%	4%	95
c) Church School leaders	42%	42%	12%	4%	96
d) Vacation Church School	9%	30%	41%	20%	87
e) Lay Readers	27%	55%	14%	4%	98
f) Assistant Clergy / Seminarian	18%	50%	21%	10%	94
g) Altar Guild	13%	52%	14%	20%	98
h) Acolytes	41%	36%	7%	15%	105
3. Counseling and Guidance -					
a) Prior to marriage	54%	38%	6%	2%	108
b) Married couples	36%	52%	10%	2%	104
c) Personal problems	53%	35%	9%	3%	106
4. Calling on Parishioners and others -					
a) Sick, bereaved, shut-ins	84%	16%	0%	0%	110
b) Institutions (hospitals, prisons)	34%	49%	14%	3%	103
c) New or potential members	62%	29%	8%	1%	101
d) Routine parish calls	37%	44%	16%	3%	106
5. To what extent should the Rector be involved in these progrsms:					
a) Women's Guild	11%	25%	43%	21%	105
b) Youth Groups	39%	27%	6%	8%	104
c) Church School	46%	37%	8%	9%	101
d) Couples Club	9%	25%	41%	24%	90
e) Every Member Canvass	11%	40%	27%	23%	93
f) Church Music Program	13%	23%	35%	28%	96
g) Men's Club	13%	31%	32%	24%	100
h) Ushers	7%	26%	36%	30%	95
i) Acolytes	31%	36%	15%	17%	105
j) Altar Guild	11%	40%	24%	24%	99

Elements of the Rector's Job - Cont'd.

Please circle ONE number on each line:	*Importance in the Rector's Job*				
	Very Important	*Important*	*Less Important*	*Someone Else should do*	*Total number of responses.*
6. *Participation in Community Service Projects:*					
a) *Within the local cummunity*	22%	49%	27%	2%	100
b) *Service clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.)*	1%	15%	63%	21%	96
c) *Ecumenical programs*	9%	67%	22%	2%	104
d) *Deanery functions*	19%	60%	19%	2%	104
e) *Diocesan projects*	19%	53%	23%	4%	99
f) *Urban Philadelphia ministry*	5%	26%	53%	16%	96
g) *National affairs*	3%	12%	43%	42%	102
7. *Administrative Tasks -*					
a) *Presiding at Vestry and parish meetings*	65%	28%	4%	3%	102
b) *Keeping church records (members, marriages, Baptisms, Confirmations, etc.)*	60%	24%	7%	10%	102
c) *Involvement in church financial affairs (budgets, pledges, bills)*	45%	42%	4%	9%	101
d) *Management of Parish Office*	36%	48%	12%	4%	98
e) *Management of church buildings and real estate dealings*	16%	31%	26%	27%	100
f) *Maintenance of church property and furnishings*	18%	28%	21%	33%	106
g) *Preparation of parish publications (leaflet, newsletter, report for Vestry, special seasonal mailings, etc.)*	23%	46%	11%	20%	100
h) *Notification to neighborhood newspapers, Deanery Newsletters, etc. of Parish functions and activities (publicity)*	16%	39%	18%	28%	96
i) *Maintain scheduled office hours*	27%	38%	33%	3%	98

8. *Additional comments on Elements of the Rector's Job:*

All must be willing to assist our new rector in these various elements.
The rector in a small parish like St. Paul's must be willing to help out in every facet of church life.
All of us have our limitations, even a rector, we all should help wherever we can.

Ministerial Style

Total number of responses

Please check ONE ITEM under each question.

113 1. In regard to major issues or controversies in our society, I think our Rector:

8 a) Should talk about both sides on major issues and make his personal views knows through his Sunday sermon. - 7%

38 b) Should talk about both sides of issues through his Sunday sermon and let us decide our own position. - 34%

49 c) Should avoid major issues and confine his Sunday sermons to religious matters. - 43%

18 d) Doesn't matter to me. - 16%

107 2. I would like to feel close enough to my Rector to talk over problems of a personal nature.

90 a) Yes - 84%

1 b) No - 1%

16 c) Doesn't matter to me - 15%

109 3. Our Rector should become actively involved in the groups and committees that make up our Parish.

96 a) Agree - 88%

3 b) Disagree - 3%

10 c) Doesn't matter to me - 9%

117 4. In our Parish, our Rector should

25 a) Exercise personal initiative in establishing the goals and programs of the parish - 21%

50 b) Provide guidance to the Vestry in determining the goals and programs established by the Vestry - 42%

15 c) Implement the goals and programs established by the Vestry - 13%

27 d) Provide leadership for parish activities - 23%

Responses	Rating	
		Ministerial Style - Cont'd.
		5. *Choose five of the following skills which you consider most important in our Rector.*
75	2 *	____a) *Personal warmth*
26	8	____b) *Diplomatic, tactful*
76	1 *	____c) *Relates to youth*
42	6	____d) *Spiritual person, Godly man*
72	3 *	____e) *Ability to work with people*
8	12	____f) *Good educator*
63	4 *	____g) *Good preacher*
19	11	____h) *Good counselor*
25	9	____i) *Scholarly knowledge of theology and the Bible*
24	10	____j) *Active as a leader in parish church groups*
6	15	____k) *Good administrator*
53	5 *	____l) *Able to communicate*
7	14	____m) *Experience*
34	7	____n) *Leadership ability*
7	13	____o) *Dynamic*

6. *Additional comments on Ministerial Style:*

Hopefully our new rector will have some of all the above skills.
You feel that you have got something out of going to church if the rector can talk & preach without reading everything.
A minister must be inspiring, we all need a little inspiration.
A rector should never fail to involve himself in any situation where his help is requested.

About Your New Rector

Total number of responses

112 1. I would prefer the Rector to be within the following age range:

11 a) Under 35 - 10%
34 b) 35 to 45 - 30%
6 c) over 45 - 5%
61 d) Immaterial - 55%

113 2. I would prefer the Rector to be:

12 a) Married - 11%
24 b) Married, with young children - 21%
4 c) Single - 3%
59 d) Marital status is immaterial to me - 65%

For each of the following statements, in order to indicate your opinion, circle ONE number.	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important
111 3. The Rector and his family should live in the Rectory.	56% (62)	14% (15)	11% (12)	20% (22)
110 4. The Rector's wife should have a role in the overall activities of the Parish.	22% (24)	29% (32)	36% (40)	13% (14)
110 5. If married, the Rector's family should be interested in the Church and its activities.	43% (47)	40% (44)	13% (15)	4% (4)

6. Other comments or opinions relative to your new Rector.

The rector's wife and/or family should be interested in all church activities & support us, but they don't have to be the leaders, just the rector.
All other activities not directly related to St. Paul's and it's people should be a secondary consideration to our Rector.
Our rector should be willing to listen to any problems and voice his opinion if he disagrees. However, he should always strive for a church of togetherness.